

Appln No. 10/611,897
Amtdt. Dated 16 January 2009
Reply to Office Action of 17 October 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant takes note of the Examiner's objections in the Office Action dated 17 January 2008.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 30, and 31.

Applicant has inserted hardware features to better define the invention. The method is now defined as being for use with data processing and data transmission systems. Please note that the data is now received at a port in the data processing system, that electronic circuitry is now used in step b), and that the results from step c) are for transmission using the data transmission system.

Applicant has also clarified the independent claims to specify that that the data vectors are spectral data vectors having multi-spectral data and that the separation of the data vectors into clusters reduces the artificial visual boundaries in the decompressed version of the image.

Regarding the Sun reference, Applicant respectfully submits that the reference is no longer citable in light of the above amendments. The Sun reference deals with spatial vectors in Cartesian space as well as Euclidean distance or physical distance. The passages cited by the Examiner are for segmenting, in a spatial sense, an image and, as such, the vectors dealt with are those in 2D space or the common Cartesian x-y coordinate system. Applicant also notes that the Sun reference accentuates the edges of objects in images to help in not just segmenting the image in a spatial sense but also to assist in tracking those same objects across different image frames (see col. 4 lines 64-67 and col. 5 lines 60-67). To assist in the tracking of objects across different

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images, what is done is to accentuate the edges of that image to separate that object from the rest of the image.

The present invention relates to the exact opposite of the Sun reference. The present invention seeks the reduction (as shown in the amended claims) of the artificial visual boundaries (edges or borders) in a finished image. Thus, since what is sought by the present invention is the exact opposite of what the Sun reference is seeking, a person skilled in the art would NOT refer to Sun. As such, Sun *cannot* be combined with the Manak reference to arrive at the present invention.

Applicant also further submits that the Sun reference operates in the visual sphere with visual vectors – the vectors mentioned in the Sun reference are pixels in an image and, as such, the distances involved are Euclidean distances (see Sun col. 6 lines 24-28). The Euclidean distances involved in the Sun reference are thus the physical distances between pixel A at (x1,y1) and pixel B at (x2, y2). In the present invention, the data vectors mentioned are *spectral* vectors (see amended claim 1 and paragraph [0006]) and, as such, the distances mentioned in the claims are *not* Euclidean distances between specific pixels in an image (as in the Sun reference) but vector distances relating to wavelengths detected. The Sun reference is therefore not citable against the present invention as the Sun reference refers to different subject matter from the present invention.

Regarding the Manak reference, nothing in Manak mentions the concept of reducing artificial visual boundaries in a decompressed image. Manak merely mentions faster transmission times, not the reduction of artefacts in images. As such, Manak is not citable for the end results sought by the present invention is different from that of Manak.

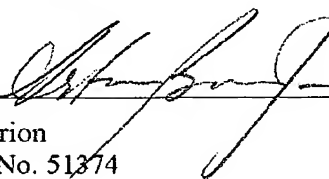
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Based on the above amendments and arguments, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable and such action is respectfully solicited. Confirmation that the above amendments have been entered and accepted is also respectfully solicited. If anything else is required which may delay or hinder the allowance of this application, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted.

No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Shen-En Qian

Per : 
Art Brion
Reg. No. 51374

16 January 2009

Art Brion
BRION RAFFOUL
PO Box 40060
2515 Bank Street
Ottawa, ON
Canada K1V 0W8

Telephone : 613-521-8844
Fax: 613-249-7207
Email : abrion@brionraffoul.com